

Kaibab National Forest

2013 Accomplishment Report **Land of Many Uses**

“The national forests are lands of many uses – and many users.”

Richard E. McArdle • Eighth Chief of the Forest Service, 1952-1962



United States
Department
of Agriculture



Forest Service
Southwestern
Region

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Message from the Forest Supervisor

The Kaibab National Forest is known and valued by so many people and for so many reasons that it would be impossible to think of the forest as anything other than “a land of many uses,” the theme of our 2013 Accomplishment Report. From serving as an important and necessary source of economic activity for our local communities to providing world-class recreational opportunities to ensuring the more intangible benefits of healthy forests, and clean air and water, the Kaibab National Forest and its abundant resources are essential to the lives of so many.

During 2013, I was especially proud of our timber and other forest products program, the many employees who prepare and administer our timber sales and contracts, and our numerous forest industry partners who make the work happen on the ground. As a result, we were able to offer the highest timber and other forest products volume sold on the Kaibab in many years. That represents thousands of acres of forest health and restoration treatments already starting to happen on the forest, contributes strongly to the economic sustainability of our local communities, supports a growing forest industry in northern Arizona that enables thinning and other restoration treatments to occur, and increases protection of our communities and private property from catastrophic wildfire.

Much of the timber volume sold was included in task orders issued under the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI). With the transfer of the first 4FRI contract to Good Earth Power Arizona in September, we’ve begun seeing progress toward our widely-shared goal of landscape-scale forest restoration across northern Arizona. I’m pleased to report that three of the first 10 task orders issued were for work here on the south end of the Kaibab National Forest, totaling 4,409 acres. I’m confident that 2014 will bring continued focus toward and escalating accomplishment of the 4FRI and its important mission. On our North Kaibab Ranger District, beyond the 4FRI area boundary, long-awaited thinning operations and other forest restoration work on the Kaibab Plateau near Jacob Lake are underway.

We made important and nearly final strides during 2013 toward completion of the revised Kaibab National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which will guide our overall efforts to best manage the many and diverse uses of the forest and its many natural and cultural resources. After nearly eight years of collaboration, outreach and strong effort by our employees and many partners and active stakeholders, I believe we have an exceptional Forest Plan that will stand the test of time as it is implemented, monitored and adapted on the Kaibab National Forest over the next two decades.

Beyond the specific accomplishments highlighted in this report, there are also colorful examples of the Kaibab’s rich natural resource reserves and our efforts to appropriately and fairly manage them to meet the often-competing demands of our diverse users. You will find quotes and anecdotes from current Kaibab employees and former chiefs of the Forest Service expressing the values they place on National Forest uses and resources.

Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service, said more than 100 years ago, “Without natural resources, life itself is impossible. ... Upon them we depend for every material necessity, comfort, convenience, and protection in our lives.” That’s certainly still true today.

I know that many people depend on the Kaibab National Forest for their livelihoods, sense of well-being, opportunities for recreational pursuits, and access to a variety of other goods and services. Because the Kaibab is indeed “a land of many uses,” we continue our commitment to pursuing balanced management of its resources to benefit the quality of life for all present and future generations.



Mike Williams
Forest Supervisor



A sense of being: Coming together on the Arizona Strip

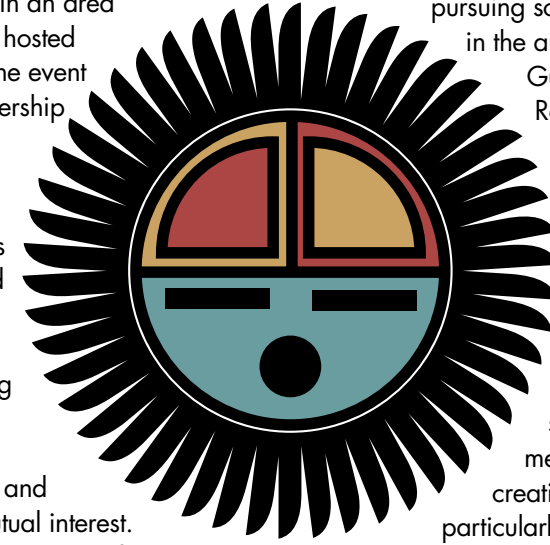
FOR OVER TWO DECADES, the Kaibab National Forest heritage program has been committed to working closely with local tribes. That commitment goes beyond the standard government-to-government consultation on Forest Service management activities, to facilitating opportunities for tribal members to visit their ancestral lands, and share their knowledge and perspectives with the local Forest Service employees who are directly responsible for managing those lands.

In April 2013, tribal elders from the Hopi Tribe and Pueblo of Zuni gathered at the historic Kane Ranch headquarters, located north of the Grand Canyon, to visit ancestral cultural sites on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in an area commonly referred to as the Arizona Strip. Tribal members were hosted by the North Kaibab Ranger District and Grand Canyon Trust. The event was made possible with a grant from Coconino County, in partnership with the Kaibab Vermilion Cliffs Heritage Alliance.

Throughout the week, Hopi and Zuni elders and cultural preservation staff viewed prehistoric farming landscapes found on the National Forest and neighboring BLM lands. Participants visited pueblo ruins, rock art sites, prehistoric farming sites, and natural springs, and collected traditional plants. Evenings were spent sharing stories and exchanging traditional songs. Like many Southwestern tribes, the Hopi and Zuni practice a farming lifestyle, and their ancestors are collectively known as the ancient pueblo people.

Throughout the week, participants discussed ways that Hopi and Zuni people could work with the Forest Service on projects of mutual interest. For example, cultural advisors expressed the importance of the protection of natural springs. Gilbert Naseyowma (Hopi) envisioned a reciprocal effort between the Hopi Tribe (youth and elders), Kaibab National Forest, and Grand Canyon Trust to restore springs on both forest range allotments and tribal lands. Creative musings like these are often the seeds that sow future projects.

The Kaibab National Forest continues to promote tribal participation in establishing agency management goals and activities. The event was a great example of how Forest Service employees can make tribal partners feel welcomed and appreciated in that process. Tribes have unique perspectives on land management, and much can be learned by working together.



Historic partnership advances science on the Grand Canyon’s North Rim

THE KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST is part of a pioneering partnership that was forged to bolster the science guiding resource management and public lands stewardship along the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

The Kane and Two Mile Ranch Research and Stewardship Partnership, which is a collaborative group of scientists, livestock producers and resource managers, is pursuing science-based solutions to conservation challenges in the area.

Guided by the Kane and Two Mile Ranch Applied Research Plan, the partnership has identified several research initiatives designed to inform management across the 850,000 acres of private land, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service grazing permits that comprise the ranches. These include evaluating the sustainability and effects of various livestock management strategies, identifying key factors responsible for the spread of non-native species, developing methods for restoring semi-arid grasslands, and creating tools for monitoring environmental change – particularly the effects of climate and land-use change.

The partnership is meant to formalize an innovative approach to carrying out the science necessary to inform public lands management and address the often contentious issues that arise across the Southwest. Other partners include Grand Canyon Trust, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, Northern Arizona University, University of Arizona, and U.S. Geological Survey.



Kaibab National Forest Teams with Native American Organization to Improve Forest Health and Provide Employment Opportunities

THE KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST recently teamed with an organization from the Alamo Navajo Indian Reservation to complete a fuels reduction and habitat improvement project on the forest’s Tusayan Ranger District while providing employment opportunities for Alamo community members.

The project involved the marking and cutting of 208 acres of ponderosa pine forest over a period of about 11 weeks for the purposes of ecosystem restoration, fuels reduction, and wildlife habitat improvement.

The crew members completing the physically-taxing forestry work were hired, trained and managed by Alamo Navajo School Board Inc. (ANSBI), which is the primary employer for the Alamo Reservation located in Socorro County, New Mexico.

“Alamo has a current 73 percent unemployment rate in the 18- to 34-year-old age group, and 55 percent of its members have never been in the workforce,” said Bill Ferranti, natural resource specialist for the Alamo Natural Resources Department, a division of ANSBI.

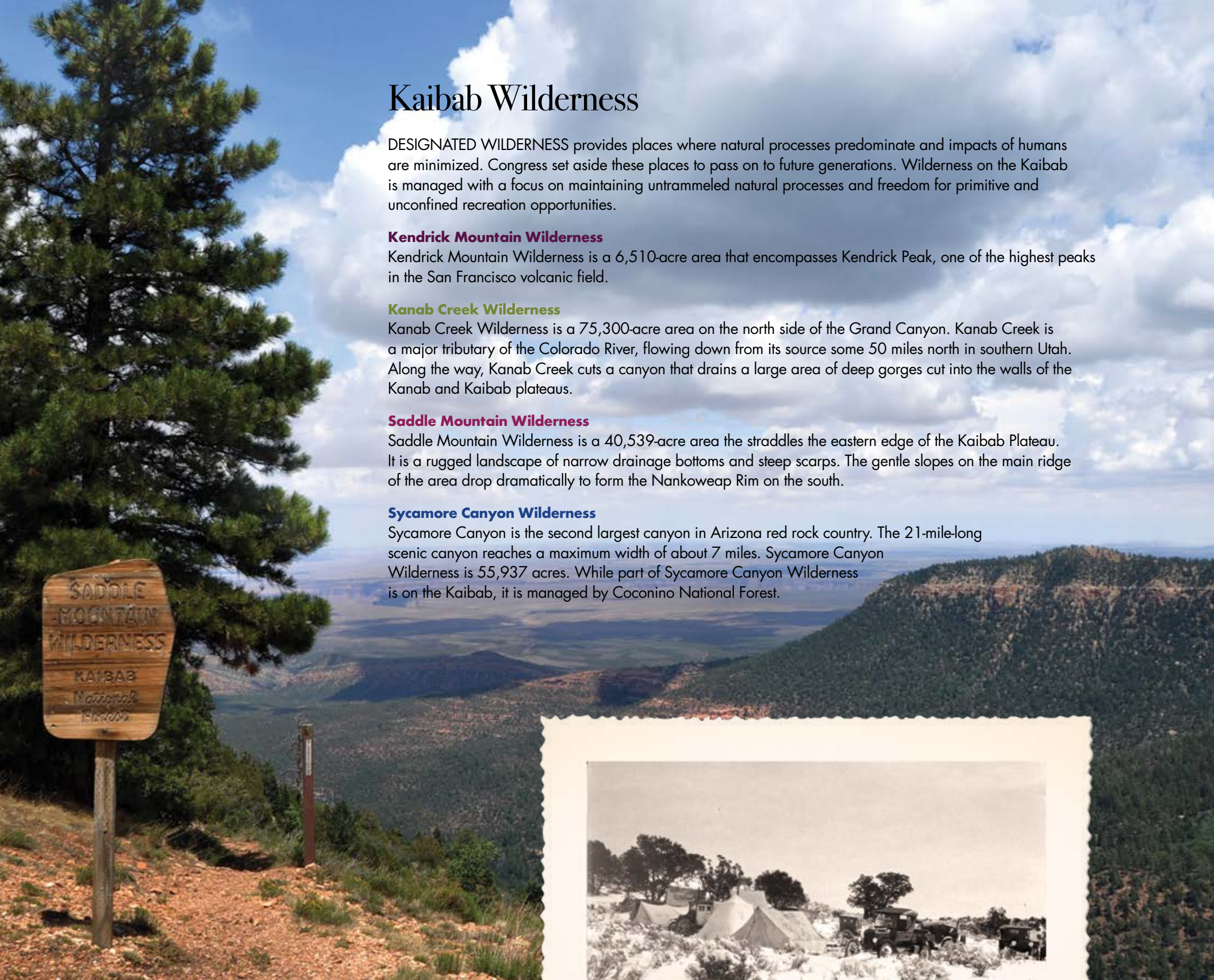
That’s why, according to Ferranti, a program was developed to establish and train an Alamo community natural resources management workforce, which would provide Alamo members with marketable skills and employment opportunities while simultaneously fulfilling a need to restore forested lands across the Southwest.

It was the program’s success in restoring forested lands on the Cibola National Forest in New Mexico that first sparked Kaibab National Forest silviculturist Mark Nabel’s interest in bringing the Alamo crew to the Kaibab. “I had heard about the work they had done with the Cibola, and when I contacted the Cibola’s timber management officer, he gave the crew a glowing review,” Nabel said.

Nabel was able to secure funding for the Tusayan fuels reduction project through the Coconino County Resource Advisory Committee, a local community group that provides recommendations on funding for projects that benefit resources on federal lands.

Nabel said the project competed well for funding due to the multiple benefits it provided including forest health improvement, employment opportunities, workforce training, and fuelwood for the nearby Cameron community and broader western Navajo Nation. Many Navajos rely on fuelwood as their primary heat source, so it was a valuable byproduct of the important fuels reduction work.

“Ideally, this project will serve as a template for the development of a similar crew in western Navajo Nation,” Nabel said. “On a personal note, I’m proud to be working on a project that puts money in the pocket of people who really need it, that provides valuable work experience to those who have very little, and that provides people with an incentive to make positive life decisions.”



Kaibab Wilderness

DESIGNATED WILDERNESS provides places where natural processes predominate and impacts of humans are minimized. Congress set aside these places to pass on to future generations. Wilderness on the Kaibab is managed with a focus on maintaining untrammeled natural processes and freedom for primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities.

Kendrick Mountain Wilderness

Kendrick Mountain Wilderness is a 6,510-acre area that encompasses Kendrick Peak, one of the highest peaks in the San Francisco volcanic field.

Kanab Creek Wilderness

Kanab Creek Wilderness is a 75,300-acre area on the north side of the Grand Canyon. Kanab Creek is a major tributary of the Colorado River, flowing down from its source some 50 miles north in southern Utah. Along the way, Kanab Creek cuts a canyon that drains a large area of deep gorges cut into the walls of the Kanab and Kaibab plateaus.

Saddle Mountain Wilderness

Saddle Mountain Wilderness is a 40,539-acre area the straddles the eastern edge of the Kaibab Plateau. It is a rugged landscape of narrow drainage bottoms and steep scarps. The gentle slopes on the main ridge of the area drop dramatically to form the Nankoweap Rim on the south.

Sycamore Canyon Wilderness

Sycamore Canyon is the second largest canyon in Arizona red rock country. The 21-mile-long scenic canyon reaches a maximum width of about 7 miles. Sycamore Canyon Wilderness is 55,937 acres. While part of Sycamore Canyon Wilderness is on the Kaibab, it is managed by Coconino National Forest.



North Kaibab to extend popular Rainbow Rim Trail

OUTDOOR RECREATION LOVERS will soon have some additional opportunities to enjoy the Kaibab Plateau as well as breathtaking overlooks of the Grand Canyon. The Kaibab National Forest approved a plan to extend the popular Rainbow Rim trail by an additional 8 miles.

Constructed in the 1980s, the Rainbow Rim trail is 18 miles of breathtaking single-track mountain biking with truly unique terrain and views that attract riders and hikers alike. There is currently no other location on public land where recreationists can mountain bike along the rim of the Grand Canyon.

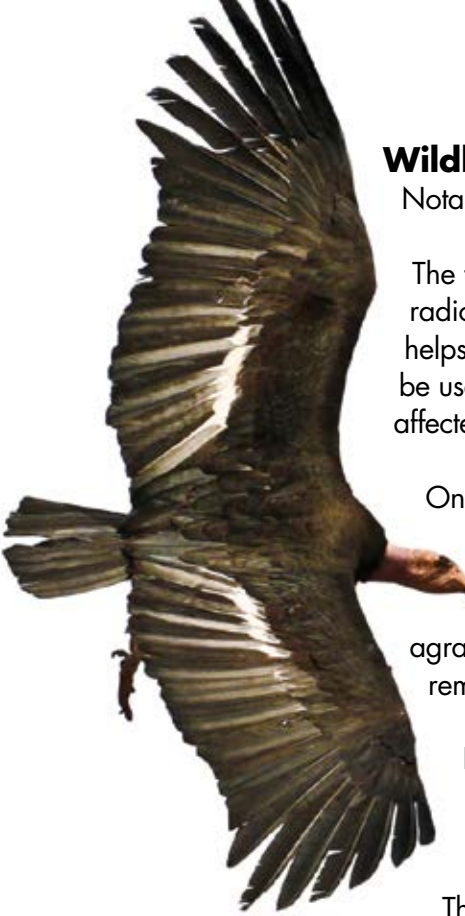
Following an internal environmental analysis and public comment and scoping periods, the North Kaibab Ranger District signed a decision memo to allow for construction of up to 8 miles of trail extending east off of the existing trail. The new trail extension will consist of about 3 miles of new construction and 4 miles of road to trail conversion.



Wildlife

Notable fiscal year 2013 wildlife program accomplishments included the following:

The forest provided funding to the Arizona Game and Fish Department to purchase radio transmitters to aid in the recovery of California condors. Transmitter monitoring helps determine areas condors use for nesting and foraging. The foraging data will be useful in identifying places where condors are being affected by lead poisoning.



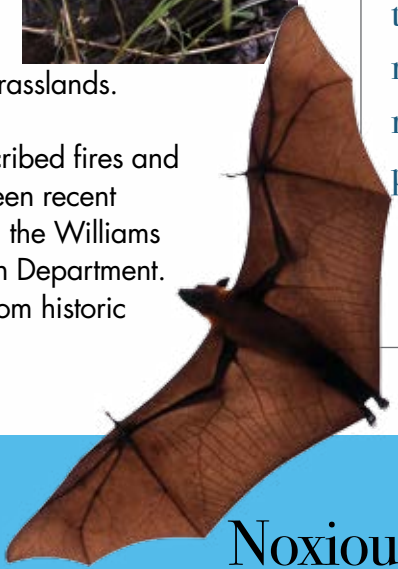
On the Williams Ranger District, work continues to improve grassland conditions. With the assistance of funding provided through the Habitat Partnership Committee, an additional 1,550 acres were clipped using an agra-axe, and 125 acres of material were masticated to remove encroaching pinyon and juniper trees from within grasslands.



In part because of the forest's proactive use of both prescribed fires and lightning-caused fires to treat the landscape, there has been recent improvement in pronghorn antelope fawn recruitment on the Williams Ranger District, according to the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The forest's focus on removing encroaching conifer trees from historic grasslands will also help in supporting the pronghorn population.

The Kaibab provided a grant to Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory to analyze extensive data on bats that was collected on the forest in recent years. Once compiled and analyzed, the data will greatly aid understanding of bat species and populations in northern Arizona.

With the aid of volunteers, North Kaibab Ranger District employees treated 50 acres of meadows that were beginning to be overtaken by conifer and aspen tree species. Many meadows on the North Kaibab are gradually being filled in by trees due to less-frequent disturbance by natural wildfire. If meadows are left to convert into forests, plant and wildlife communities are altered, and both nutrient cycling and carbon storage are impacted. The effects on the soil system, vegetation structure and productivity, and native plant diversity may become irreversible. By beginning the work of meadow restoration before young trees become well-established, negative impacts can be avoided.



Noxious weed treatments and grassland maintenance

Noxious Weed Treatments

During 2013, the forest completed 3,000 acres of noxious weed control through herbicide, hand pulling and biological treatments. Species treated included Dalmatian toadflax, bull thistle, Russian thistle, scotch thistle, musk thistle, diffuse knapweed and cheatgrass. These treatments improve native plant community composition and density, with increased ground cover and watershed protection benefits.

Grassland Maintenance

The Kaibab conducted grassland improvement and maintenance projects on 2,000 acres during 2013. The projects focused primarily on removing pinyon pine and juniper trees that had encroached into historic grassland ecosystems. Monitoring efforts indicate that substantial improvement in vegetative and litter ground cover has occurred following these treatments. The improved ground cover decreases soil erosion and potential sedimentation of ephemeral stream courses on the forest.

KAIBAB
National Forest
Land of Many Uses

To me, multiple use means that I can use the forest to look for wildlife and someone else may use the forest to gather wood products to heat their home. There isn't one reason to be in the forest, rather many reasons to draw people of all walks of life.

Mike Uebel
Fuels Assistant Fire Management
Officer, Williams Ranger District

America to celebrate "50 Years of Wilderness"

In 2014, America will celebrate "50 Years of Wilderness" as we honor the golden anniversary of the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The Forest Service has a rich history of wilderness stewardship.

As an agency, we were protecting land for wilderness values well before the signing of the Wilderness Act, beginning with the 1924 designation of what would become the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. Today, the Forest Service manages 439 designated wilderness areas covering more than 36 million acres.

Wilderness benefits everyone, whether you visit a wilderness or simply appreciate the continued existence of areas where the Earth and its community of life are untrammeled by humans.

Wilderness also:

- Provides opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, including hiking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, photography, and off-trail exploration.
- Gives us time to reflect and find solitude and solace to offset the busy world around us.
- Provides clean water and air, habitat for animals, and healthy landscapes for rare and endangered species to thrive.
- Includes the traditional ancestral lands of some American Indians and Alaska Natives; these lands are often held sacred by indigenous people.
- Showcases to the world some of America's most special places and landscapes – forested mountains, alpine meadows, rock peaks above timberline, tundra, lava beds, deserts, swamps, coastal lands, and islands.



I love to scout and hunt mule deer on the Kaibab. In my opinion, there is no better place in the world to hunt mule deer than the North Kaibab Ranger District. There are tons of deer there, including some monster bucks. You never know what kind of giant buck you could find when you come around the corner on one of the roads.

Quentin Johnson
Fire Management Officer
Tusayan Ranger District

Employees clean rock art sites within Snake Gulch

IN RECOGNITION of the amazing resources on the North Kaibab Ranger District, a group of Kaibab National Forest employees spent multiple days sifting through sagebrush, scorpions, and dirt to remove cow manure from cultural resource sites within Kanab Creek Wilderness.

"People come from all over the world to view these special places, and many local residents take great pride and ownership in these sites," said North Zone Archaeologist Connie Reid. "We have an obligation to care for them, not just legally, but in order that future generations have a chance to experience them, too. The Forest Service takes its stewardship responsibilities very seriously."

Agency officials discovered that cows from an allotment adjacent to the National Forest spent weeks within Snake Gulch Canyon during the winter months. The cows had littered the area with manure, trampled structures, and wallowed beneath the overhangs, which has contributed to undesirable erosion within the drainage.

During two days in March and several more days in the fall, employees removed more than three tons of manure surrounding a handful of the most visited sites.

Snake Gulch contains what is believed to be the highest concentration of pictograph sites within National Forest System lands, Reid said. The sites hold a great deal of cultural significance for Native American tribes in the area. Many of the sites are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which mandates their protection under the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

Smokey Bear statue on display in Fredonia

If you want your picture taken with Smokey Bear, he's now available any time.

The Kaibab National Forest recently installed a life-size Smokey statue in front of the North Kaibab Ranger District office in Fredonia. The statue will spend summers in front of the Kaibab Plateau Visitors Center at Jacob Lake.

But while Smokey is sure to please crowds, he also brings an important message.

"We are reminding everyone to use caution and care when building campfires," said North Zone Fire Management Officer Ed Hiatt.

In spring of 2012, a drought brought the driest conditions the Kaibab Plateau had experienced in 10 years.

In November of 2012, an escaped campfire grew to nearly 250 acres on the plateau before fire crews could contain it.

Hiatt offered these simple steps for campfire safety:

- Ensure you place your fire in an area free of flammable material.
- Use an established ring if one is near.
- Don't use flammable liquids to start your fire.
- When done with your fire, ensure it is DEAD out.
- Drench the fire with water, stir the ashes and coals, and wet it again.
- When your fire is extinguished completely, it should be cold to the touch. If not, repeat the previous steps.
- Make sure you pick up after yourself and remove any food or garbage from the fire area.



North Kaibab volunteer receives statewide recognition for stewardship of cultural resources

THE ARIZONA SITE STEWARDS PROGRAM recently recognized Brad Heap with its 2013 Assistant Regional Site Steward Coordinator award for his outstanding service in preserving the cultural resources of the eastern region of the Arizona Strip.

In his nearly 10 years as an Arizona site steward, Heap has logged more than 4,000 hours in the field and led the effort to bring 40 additional archaeological sites into the site steward program. Much of his time and energy has been focused on the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest, although he has also brought his valuable skills in surveying, site recording and cabin restoration to projects on the forest's other two districts.



"Brad is a dedicated steward of the land. He takes his site steward duties to heart," wrote Britt Betenson, assistant North Kaibab Ranger District archaeologist, in her nomination of Heap for the award. "Brad has worked hard to build an active and sustainable group of volunteers ..." and "... demonstrates a love of the land and its cultural resources."

The Arizona Site Stewards Program is an organization of volunteers, sponsored by public land managers of Arizona, whose members are selected, trained and certified by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission. The chief objective of the program is to report to land managers the destruction or vandalism of archaeological sites in Arizona through site monitoring. Stewards are also active in public education and outreach activities.

According to Betenson, site stewards are often "our eyes and ears on the forest," and they provide tremendous support to the Kaibab National Forest heritage program. "We are grateful to members of the public who share our stewardship ethic and who dedicate their time to preserving and protecting heritage resources for future generations," Betenson said.



North Kaibab implements Travel Management Rule

After four years of planning and public consultation, new rules for motorized travel on the North Kaibab Ranger District took effect in September. The district's new travel management plan designates a motorized system of roads, trails, and areas across the almost 650,000-acre ranger district, and restricts motorized travel off the designated routes.

Under the new rules, motorized traffic is restricted to within 30 feet of designated roads, except in camping corridors, which allow vehicles to travel up to 300 feet from the side of the road. Vehicles can also be taken off-road to retrieve firewood, and a legally harvested bison or elk.

As part of the multi-year planning process, district specialists evaluated all inventoried roads for resource concerns. In a 2012 decision notice, the district reduced the miles of open roads on the district from about 1,850 to about 1,475, a difference of about 20 percent.

The decision also added 796 user-created campsites to the existing system, along with about 16 miles of additional road. Outside of wilderness areas, 95 percent of the district remains within a mile of an open road.

The district has produced a Motor Vehicle Use Map to display the open road system. Maps are free to the public, and they are the primary tool for learning the new roads system.

The North Kaibab Travel Management Project was undertaken in response to the 2005 national Travel Management Rule, which required all national forests and grasslands to designate a motorized travel system.

Kaibab completes Highway 67 corridor management plan

THE NORTH KAIBAB RANGER DISTRICT developed a new corridor management plan for the Kaibab Plateau – North Rim Parkway, otherwise known as Arizona Highway 67.

A series of public meetings brought together interested members of the public with local, state and federal agencies to discuss future needs along the parkway.

The Kaibab Plateau – North Rim Parkway is a National Scenic Byway that extends 45 miles south from Jacob Lake to the entry station at the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park.

An estimated 1,100 vehicles travel the parkway every day, according to the Arizona Department of Transportation, including many tourists and hunters that contribute heavily to local economies.

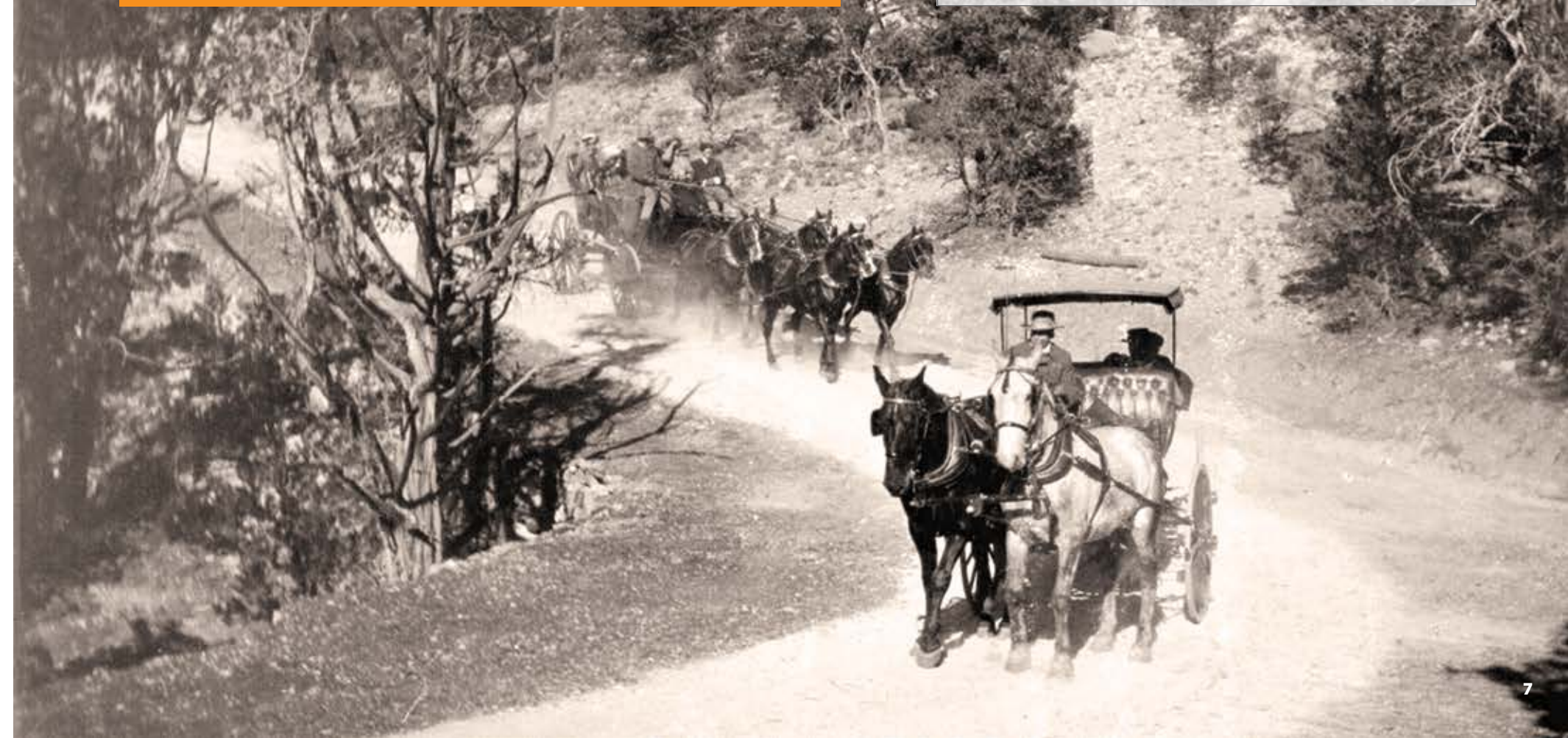
The purpose of the project was to develop a corridor management plan that serves as a guiding document with an implementation strategy for cultural, historic, recreational, natural, and scenic qualities that promote the area.

The new corridor management plan identifies goals of preserving scenic integrity, conserving natural and cultural resources, improving traffic safety, enhancing recreation, education, and interpretation, and evaluating winter operations on Forest Service lands.

The plan will be used as guidance for making decisions about new developments or activities proposed for the byway corridor.

I love family traditions, and one of my favorites is getting a Christmas tree from the Kaibab Plateau. Every year my family visits the forest in search of the perfect tree. We put on our snow boots, pack a picnic lunch, fill a thermos with hot chocolate, jump in the truck, turn on Christmas music and head to the woods.

Connie Reid
North Zone Archaeologist, North Kaibab Ranger District



My favorite recreational activity on the Kaibab is exploring the various heritage sites that contain pottery sherds, lithic scatter, rock art, and remnants of pueblos. Viewing these areas makes me envision what it must have been like to inhabit this area hundreds of years ago.

**Wade Christy, Recreation Staff Officer
North Kaibab Ranger District**

Jacob-Ryan project upheld in federal court

IN SPRING 2013, the United States District Court in Phoenix ruled in favor of the Jacob-Ryan Vegetation Management Project, allowing the large-scale thinning and burning effort to move forward after years of planning and revision.

The Jacob-Ryan project involves mechanical thinning and prescribed burning treatments on about 25,000 acres of predominantly ponderosa pine forest surrounding Jacob Lake, Ariz. The project will improve goshawk habitat by thinning an overstocked forest and restoring fire to a fire-evolved ecosystem. The thinning and burning treatments will also create a more resilient forest, while reducing the threats of large-scale wildfire, insects and disease.

"Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of our employees, and support from our local communities, we can move forward to help protect the habitat and the forest from high-intensity wildfire," said North Kaibab District Ranger Randall Walker.

Forest managers began project implementation in 2013 and expect work to continue for five to seven years.

Running on empty: How fire histories changed fire futures

WHILE THE KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST is part of a fire-adapted ecosystem, conditions today are dramatically different from historic landscape conditions. Much of the forest is uncharacteristically dense with heavy loads of accumulated woody material. Fire managers have worked for many years to treat existing conditions to improve forest health, enhance wildlife habitat, protect cultural resources, and reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. However, the effectiveness of these fuel treatments can often be difficult to see because many benefits are latent or unrealized until a wildfire situation.

In June 2013, however, two human-caused fires on the forest highlighted the effectiveness of previous treatments in the face of severe fire conditions. When the fires occurred, the forest was under Red Flag Warning conditions, Stage II fire restrictions, near record-setting heat, critical fire weather, and extreme fire danger.

On the Tusayan Ranger District, the Halfway Fire started in an area previously burned in the 1995 Grapevine prescribed burn. Despite extreme conditions, the fire exhibited a moderate rate of spread with individual tree torching and 3 to 5 foot flame lengths. As the head of the fire crossed into Grand Canyon National Park, it reached areas that had been treated in the 1990 Trick Tank prescribed burn and at various times from 1996 to 2011 as part of the Watson prescribed burns. Fire managers immediately saw a significant decrease in fire behavior and growth despite 20 mph winds.

"The Halfway Fire could have been a major wildfire," said Quentin Johnson, fire management officer for the Tusayan Ranger District. "Despite Red Flag conditions, the prescribed fire history in this area allowed us to contain the fire fairly quickly."

On the Williams Ranger District, the Echo Fire started within 200 feet of a residential neighborhood. The fire moved into an area that had been treated as part of the City prescribed burn in 2010. The fire stopped growing and became largely inactive despite very low relative humidity levels and high winds.

"Within 15 minutes, we were able to safely lay hose around the perimeter and quickly minimize any impacts to the interstate or adjacent neighborhoods," said Ryan Rawlinson, Echo Fire incident commander.

In both examples, previous fire history changed the fire's future with tremendous benefits to communities and forest resources. Aggressive fuel treatments resulted in significant changes to fire behavior and control tactics. Additionally, increased firefighter and public safety, limited impacts to forest overstory, and decreased smoke emissions were all seen. Both the Halfway and Echo fires burned at significantly lower intensities than would have been expected given existing weather and fuel moisture conditions. Overall, the fires simply "ran on empty" once they moved into previously treated areas.

FIRE and FUELS MANAGEMENT

FIRE MANAGERS ON THE KAIBAB are passionate about the natural role fire plays in restoring and maintaining its fire-adapted ecosystems. Throughout the year, they actively seek opportunities to implement prescribed fires and to manage lightning-caused fires to perform their natural role as disturbance factors in the ecosystem. Prescribed fires and wildfires recycle nutrients into the soil, improve forage for range stock and wildlife, thin and maintain tree density, and reduce hazardous accumulations of forest litter and debris to decrease the risk of future undesirable high-severity wildfires.

Since 2000, the Kaibab National Forest has implemented an average of 7,500 acres of prescribed fire per year. In fiscal year 2013, weather conditions and other constraints limited the application of prescribed fire to 4,179 acres. Of those, 2,346 acres were in the wildland urban interface with a primary purpose of protecting the people and communities living adjacent to the forest. The remaining 1,823 acres were in more remote areas of the forest, which achieved vegetation, wildlife habitat, watershed, range, soils and heritage resource protection objectives.

Thinning activities on the forest to restore or improve forest stand structure produce slash that increases the load of hazardous fuels. To reduce this load, the slash is often piled and subsequently burned during periods of low fire danger, such as when there is snow on the ground. Kaibab firefighters burned 1,405 acres of piles during the winter and monsoon seasons.

Conditions were right to manage five lightning-caused fires to achieve resource benefits, which treated a total of 4,292 acres. These fires included:

- Wash Fire, Tusayan Ranger District – 14 acres
- Cooper Fire, North Kaibab Ranger District – 969 acres
- Castle Fire, North Kaibab Ranger District – 1,538 acres
- Skinner Fire, Tusayan Ranger District – 1,463 acres
- Mud Fire, Williams Ranger District – 308 acres
- Brushy Fire, Tusayan Ranger District – 0.5 acres

Despite fire managers' passion for using wildfires to benefit the forest, fire prevention and suppression is still a primary function of the Kaibab fire organization. At many times of the year, conditions are too dry, windy, or wet to achieve resource benefits and desirable outcomes from wildfires. By federal policy, all human-caused fires are suppressed. Firefighters took full suppression action on 107 wildfires in 2013.

Since 1970, an average of 25 percent of the fires on the Kaibab have been human-caused. Prevention efforts are paying off, however, as the percentage has been steadily decreasing since 2008. In 2013, only 12 percent of them – 14 fires – were human-caused. The largest was the Halfway Fire on the Tusayan Ranger District, which burned 250 acres. The other 13 human-caused fires were all successfully contained on initial attack, for a total of 3.9 acres. Firefighters were also successful in initial attack on the remaining 93 lightning-caused fires, which burned a total of 24.6 acres.

- Total number of fires from 1970-2012: 8,454
- Total acres burned by wildfires: 276,913
- Average number of fires per year: 201
- 80% of wildfires do not exceed ¼ acre in size.
- 75% of wildfires are caused by lightning.
- 13% of wildfires are escaped campfires.



Castle Fire



Cooper Fire



Mud Fire

My family recently was woodcutting on the Tusayan district. This was my opportunity to show off what I've been up to the past year. It makes me proud to showcase the work that's been done and be able to associate myself with the district's accomplishments. **Brandon Oberhardt, Engine 742, Tusayan Ranger District**



Recreation and wilderness

Wilderness Rendezvous

Every year, Forest Service Regions 2 and 3 hold a combined Wilderness Rendezvous, a week-long session aimed at getting wilderness employees – from seasonal rangers to program managers – together for training and skill sharing.

In 2013, the Kaibab National Forest successfully lobbied to host the event. In early June, 70 wilderness employees and volunteers came together at the historic Big Springs Ranger Station for a week of learning wilderness ethics, history, monitoring and primitive skills. Participants attended from Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona, and represented three different agencies (U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service).



Jumpup Cabin Ready for Rental

In final preparation for getting Jumpup Cabin ready for inclusion in the cabin rental system, the North Kaibab Ranger District installed a passive-evaporative toilet at the site. Not only will it provide for visitor comfort and protect the area's resources, the incorporation of a juniper privacy screen (instead of a fourth wall) provides a beautiful view of Kanab Creek. Talk about a room with a view!

Rainbow Rim Trail Planning

The Rainbow Rim Trail is extremely popular with mountain bikers and backcountry hikers. The North Kaibab Ranger District completed the environmental analysis to add 8 more miles to this trail. The addition will go a long way toward the ultimate goal of creating a loop trail.

Wilderness Information Needs Assessment

An interdisciplinary team of specialists met for a week-long session to identify management concerns in the forest's three designated wilderness areas (Kanab Creek, Saddle Mountain and Kendrick Mountain) and information that might be needed to assess and address those concerns. The effort resulted in a six-year plan to conduct surveys, analyze the results, and implement responsive management actions. Identified concerns included the following: cattle trespass in Kanab Creek and its attendant damage to vegetation, soils and archaeological resources; potential soils, spring and vegetation damage in the Pumpkin Fire area of Kendrick Mountain; and, the lack of accurate knowledge of use levels in all wilderness areas.

Campground Concessionaire Prospectus

The Williams and Tusayan districts issued a prospectus for the operation and maintenance of its three concessionaire-run campgrounds. The selected applicant was Southwest Recreation.



Three North Kaibab cabins to be added into overnight rental program

THE KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST plans to add three historic sites on the North Kaibab Ranger District to the Arizona "Rooms with a View" cabin rental program.

The "Rooms with a View" program has become popular with the public because it provides the unique recreational experience of staying in historic Forest Service cabins while also providing funding for the ongoing maintenance and renovation of these historic buildings.

The Kaibab National Forest proposed new recreation fees at Jumpup Cabin, Pleasant Valley Cabin, and individual cabins at the Big Springs Administrative Site, adding these three historic sites to the cabin rental program. The fee revenue would be used to operate, maintain and improve these recreation facilities and provide visitors with a unique recreational opportunity.

Jumpup Cabin, the oldest existing ranger station on the Kaibab Plateau, was built in 1906 and sits at the edge of Kanab Creek Wilderness. This cabin would be the first to enter the rental program. The new fee is proposed at \$60 per night.

There are seven historic residential cabins at Big Springs, located next to the Kaibab Plateau's most abundant water source, about 35 miles south of Fredonia. The new fee is proposed at \$65 per night for an individual cabin. While Big Springs serves as an active administrative site for the Forest Service, rental cabins available to the public are in a discrete location separated from administrative structures.

The cabin at Pleasant Valley is located along Highway 67 north of Grand Canyon National Park. Pleasant Valley Cabin requires substantial rehabilitation work to prepare it for public use, which will need to be completed prior to its entry into the rental program. The new fee is proposed at \$140 per night.

Each of the cabins would require a reservation for use. Reservations would be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) at www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. The NRRS charges a \$9 reservation fee for internet reservations and \$10 fee for phone reservations.

HERITAGE

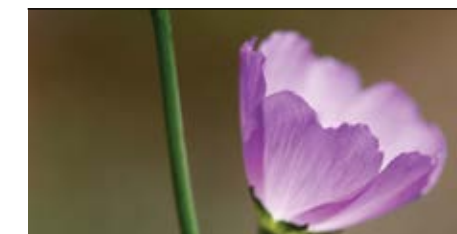
During 2013, the heritage program achieved the distinction of having more than 10,000 archaeological sites recorded on the forest, which demonstrates the incredible richness of the Kaibab's historically and culturally significant resources. Archaeologists conducted 38 projects in support of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, surveying 880 acres, recording 13 new sites, and monitoring or protecting 170 sites. They also managed more than 1,400 hours of volunteer work through the Arizona Site Stewards Program, the Passport in Time Project, independent research initiatives, and the Grinnell College Grinnellink Internship Program.

Kaibab archaeologists hosted more than 50 outreach projects including presentations, interactive demonstrations and field trips for events such as the eSmart Summer Camp for Girls at Dixie State University, Arizona Archaeology Month, Flagstaff Festival of Science and more.

Long-time Kaibab volunteers Don Christensen, Steven Freers and Jerry Dickey published their book, "Rock Art of the Grand Canyon Region," which interprets the vast rock art styles across the forest.



Master's degree students Annie Lutes and Travis Cureton worked to finalize their thesis studies on cultural resources of the forest.



The North Kaibab Ranger District, in partnership with the Kaibab Vermilion Cliffs Heritage Alliance, hosted a gathering of Hopi and Zuni elders at the historic Kane Ranch. Tribal representatives visited ancestral sites on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands.



The North Kaibab district also hosted the 2013 Passport in Time Project, during which volunteers assisted forest archaeologists in recording 17 sites located in a recent burn area.



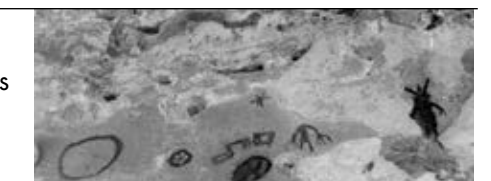
On the Williams Ranger District, construction began on the historic Stone to Steel Dam interpretive trail, which is being built in partnership with the Ash Fork Development Association.



Archaeologists worked with the Coconino Rural Environment Corps and the Williams Youth Conservation Corps crews to remove fuel from fire-sensitive historic logging railroad grades.



On the North Kaibab, archaeologists and other district employees cleaned dozens of rock shelter and rock art sites in Snake Gulch Canyon after cattle from an allotment trespassed into the canyon.



On the Williams district, vandals tagged the Keyhole Sink rock art panels with graffiti for the second time in three years. Archaeologists and volunteers once again removed the graffiti.

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Hiking is my favorite recreational activity on the Kaibab. I prefer trails with lots of elevation change because I enjoy the diversity in plant life, tree species and scenery. The combination of beauty and physical exertion within a peaceful environment is a dependable stress reliever!

Mark Thibodeau
Information Receptionist
Williams Ranger District

I use the Kaibab with my family in several different ways, all creating lasting memories. This year we spent time camping, collecting pine cones for holiday crafts, and traveling to the areas of fall color to take family photos. The winter brings opportunities for snow ice cream, snow play and sledding.

Bodie Ronk
Automation Clerk
Supervisor's Office



Kaibab issues decision for Kane Ranch management plan

THE KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST issued a final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Decision Notice – Finding of No Significant Impact for the Kane Ranch grazing allotments, which cover about 435,000 acres of the Kaibab Plateau.

The new EA calls for the monitoring of range conditions across the allotments for two years to determine whether livestock numbers can be increased, the potential reopening of a historic cattle trail from House Rock Valley to the top of the Kaibab Plateau, increased protection of water features, as well as the monitoring of test plots to better understand vegetation and wildlife habitat conditions.

The new EA and Decision Notice are the result of two years of collaboration and public meetings to discuss numerous issues associated with the reauthorization of cattle grazing on three allotments within the North Kaibab Ranger District.



“Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question shall always be answered from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run.”

Gifford Pinchot
First Chief of the Forest Service, 1905-1910



SILVICULTURE

Reforestation

- Planted 645 acres of ponderosa pine trees on severely burned areas of the Warm and Eagle Rock fires. Established tree protection cones on 171 acres of newly planted ponderosa pine seedlings in order to protect them from ungulate browse and allow them to become established and develop into larger trees. Installed seedling survival monitoring plots on all planted areas.
- Planted one acre of aspen in an area with heavy aspen mortality. The aspen were planted within a fenced enclosure that provides protection from ungulate browse and allows the newly planted trees to become established and develop into a new stand of aspen.
- Erected four aspen fence enclosures over 10 acres to protect newly developing aspen sprouts from ungulate browse. Fencing preserves aspen stands in areas where they have a high potential of being completely lost over time.
- Maintained and repaired 215 acres of aspen and ponderosa pine plantation fences scattered across the forest. These fenced enclosures provide protection for the trees developing within them from ungulate browse and other large mammal damage.



Timber

Christmas Trees Sold

Sale-by-vendor through Big 5 Sporting Goods stores – 777 trees
Over-the-counter at district offices – 807 trees
Total – 1,584 trees

Personal and Free-Use Firewood

(for home heating and other purposes)
Forest Total – 10,857 cords*

Ceremonial Use Firewood

(for Native Americans for traditional and cultural purposes)
Forest Total – 104 cords*

Timber Sale and Stewardship Contracts

Volume Harvested
Forest Total – 15,886 ccf**

Timber Volume Sold

Four Forest Restoration Initiative Task Orders – 34,959 ccf*
Stewardship Contracts – 5,907 ccf*
Timber Sales – 3,009 ccf*
Total – 43,875 ccf*

This is by far the highest level of accomplishment in terms of Timber Volume Sold in many years on the Kaibab National Forest. This represents many acres of forest health and restoration treatments.

* How do I measure a cord of wood? The amount of wood removed from the forest is measured in cords. A standard cord is 4x4x8 feet. A standard size pickup truck bed filled just above the top (if no side racks) is approximately 1/2 cord.
**The measurement ccf refers to 100 cubic feet.



Timber Stand Improvement

- Completed 867 acres of pre-commercial thinning to improve forest health and reduce risk of destructive fires. The work included 222 acres of hand piling of the slash created by the thinning. An additional 142 acres of thinning slash were dozer piled.
- Provided layout and silvicultural prescriptions for 365 acres.
- Removed encroaching conifers from 39 acres of aspen stands.

Timber Sale and Timber Sale Stewardship Support

- Provided silvicultural prescriptions and marking guides for timber sale and stewardship contracts for 3,966 acres.

Other

- Established post-fire monitoring plots in prescribed burn areas on 1,264 acres.
- Removed 18 acres of old plantation fences that were no longer needed.
- Performed 6,430 acres of stand exams to update forest vegetative information.
- Worked with wildlife biologists to analyze Mexican spotted owl habitat on the North Kaibab Ranger District.

Soils and Watershed

The Museum of Northern Arizona's Springs Stewardship Institute completed inventories and assessments of 30 spring ecosystems on the Kaibab National Forest during fiscal year 2013 using the Springs Ecosystem Assessment Protocol. These springs inventories and assessments are part of a larger project that was implemented under a contract with the museum for the primary purpose of informing the forest's land and resources management plan revision process. However, data captured during the inventories and assessments are also a valuable tool for assessing restoration opportunities and providing a baseline from which to evaluate restoration responses and successes. Data captured during each spring survey include the following: aquifer condition/water quality, flow rates, geomorphic condition, habitat characteristics, biotic integrity, human influences, and administrative context information. Management recommendations are also provided.

Soil conditions were evaluated on about 7,600 acres of the Kane Ranch grazing allotments on the North Kaibab Ranger District and 800 acres of the Juan Tank Allotment on the Williams Ranger District. Soil condition evaluations include excavation of soil pits and detailed descriptions of soil profiles and the associated vegetative communities. Soil hydrologic condition, stability and nutrient cycling capability are also evaluated. These field evaluations document current soil conditions and guide future management of the soils resource to ensure that soil productivity is maintained.

FOUR FOREST RESTORATION INITIATIVE

THE FOUR FOREST RESTORATION INITIATIVE (4FRI) entered exciting territory during 2013. In September, the phase 1 stewardship contract was transferred to Good Earth Power AZ LLC (Good Earth), www.goodearthpower.com, and task orders for 15,219 acres were issued across the Kaibab, Coconino, Tonto and Apache-Sitgreaves (A-S) National Forests (see table 1). Good Earth will carry out the terms and conditions of the phase 1 stewardship contract, including restoration treatments.



TABLE 1:
Task orders issued in September

TASK ORDERS	LOCATION	ACRES	ISSUANCE DATE
Ranch	A-S	932	4/5/2013
Alder	A-S	1,307	9/9/2013
Dogtown	Kaibab	1,716	9/12/2013
KA	Kaibab	1,047	9/12/2013
Pomeroy	Kaibab	1,646	9/12/2013
Christopher/Hunter-Mercer	Tonto	952	9/16/2013
Clark	Coconino	1,684	9/16/2013
Elk Park	Coconino	2,901	9/16/2013
Bobs	Coconino	2,017	9/16/2013
Weatherford	Coconino	1,017	9/16/2013
Total Acres		15,219	

The 4FRI project will restore northern Arizona's ponderosa pine forests, reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfires and providing sustainable restoration-based economic opportunities for local communities. Restoration activities have already been occurring, with many of these treatments focused on improving wildlife habitat, watershed condition and forest health. Other restoration treatments such as noxious weed control, stream stabilization and habitat improvement, and road decommissioning will occur at historic levels in the coming years. The 4FRI also has a very active stakeholder group comprised of representatives from about 50 groups – environmental, sportsmen, state of Arizona agencies, other federal agencies, private individuals, universities, and the forest products industry. The large stakeholder group meets monthly and has numerous subcommittees focusing on specific issues such as landscape analysis and monitoring. For additional information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/4fri or www.4fri.org.

When I was a kid with my family and now as an adult with my family, hunting, camping and taking rides in the forest have always been meaningful to us. For generations, sitting around a campfire at night or bumping down a rough two-track road sharing places with family where some of our most memorable hunts had taken place is very important to us. The forest has been a mainstay for generations in my family. **Lee Payne • Equipment Operator, Williams Ranger District**

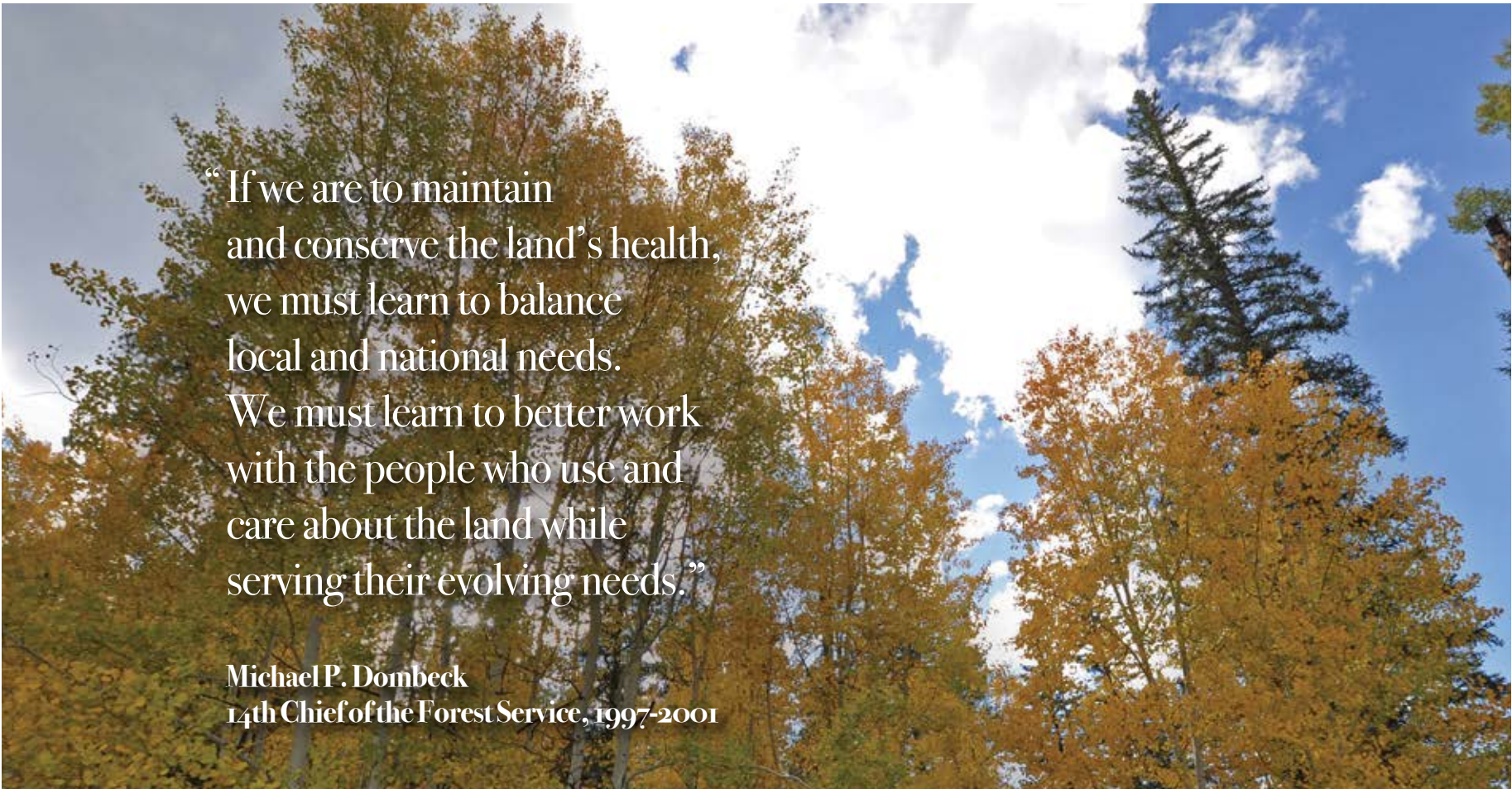
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Engineering

- Notable fiscal year 2013 engineering accomplishments included the following:
- About 309 miles of Forest Service roads were maintained to be suitable for standard passenger car use. (This is one-time maintenance miles. Maintenance was performed on some main arterial roads that receive above-average traffic on multiple occasions.) The road maintenance effort is of great benefit to many including recreational users, ranchers, and other public and private entities that operate facilities on the forest.
 - About 75 miles of Forest Service roads suitable for high-clearance vehicles were maintained.
 - Contracts were awarded to improve about 23.4 miles of roads suitable for standard passenger cars on the Williams Ranger District. This work involves completely reshaping the road surface, reestablishing/constructing drainage structures, and resurfacing the road. In addition to benefiting recreational users, this work will improve timber sale haul routes in support of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative, which will not only improve forest health but also reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire to local communities.
 - Contracts were awarded to perform drainage structure improvement and spot resurfacing of about 9.6 miles of roads suitable for high-clearance vehicles.



- Contracts were awarded to improve about 15 miles of roads suitable for standard passenger cars on the North Kaibab Ranger District. These road improvements will greatly improve access for forest visitors to recreational sites on the Kaibab Plateau and at the north rim of the Grand Canyon.
- About 11 miles of roads were decommissioned, which benefits overall forest ecosystem health and contributes to watershed improvement.
- Compliance of all drinking water systems on the forest was ensured in order to meet water quality regulations and protect forest visitors.
- Condition surveys of all forest road bridges were performed to ensure structural integrity.
- Forest dam condition surveys were performed to enhance overall public safety and reduce the risk of below-dam flooding.
- Continued work to renovate the Jacob Lake Fire Lookout Tower, the Dry Park Fire Lookout Tower, and the cabin near the Big Springs Fire Lookout Tower.
- Awarded a contract to improve energy efficiency and conservation at forest facilities. The primary focus of the contract is to perform a construction/reconstruction of the outside air and return air systems on four existing HVAC systems in the Williams Ranger District office to increase the energy efficiency of the building.
- Implemented a program to replace or install road safety/warning signage on roads suitable for passenger car use to enhance the safety of all forest road users.



“If we are to maintain and conserve the land’s health, we must learn to balance local and national needs. We must learn to better work with the people who use and care about the land while serving their evolving needs.”

Michael P. Dornbeck
14th Chief of the Forest Service, 1997-2001

Kaibab supports unique educational outreach program

MORE THAN A HUNDRED elementary school children sit restlessly on aluminum bleachers in their school’s gymnasium. The sounds of shuffling feet and muffled whispers echo throughout the large, vacuous space. Suddenly, the entire room goes pin-drop silent as a high-school-aged girl dressed in all black enters and stands front and center before the audience. Slowly, she begins to rhythmically chant, “Aye-Oh,” and is answered by other distant voices mirroring her call. As the characters of Yellow Belly Ponderosa, an educational theater production, take the gym-floor-turned-stage, the once-fidgety elementary school students focus intently, riveted by the sights and sounds of a ponderosa pine forest filled with woodland creatures sprouting before their eyes. For the next hour, the students are treated to a performance unlike anything most of them have ever seen. The Yellow Belly Ponderosa theatrical production entertains and engages by following characters Fox and Raven on an epic adventure through the forest while also educating about concepts such as forest health and restoration, natural resource stewardship, and the value of science. During spring 2013, the Yellow Belly Ponderosa program was performed at schools throughout northern

Arizona, thanks in part to funding secured by Kaibab National Forest. The Kaibab teamed with the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership to successfully compete for about \$18,000 in national-level Forest Service dollars as part of the More Kids in the Woods initiative. The goal of the project was to promote understanding of sustainable forests and connect young people to the natural world. With the support provided by the Kaibab, Yellow Belly Ponderosa was able to host school performances in Leupp, Dilcon, Hotevilla, Kykotsmobi Village, Williams, Grand Canyon, Tuba City, Kayenta, Fredonia and Camp Verde as well as a community performance at the Coconino Center for the Arts in Flagstaff, which drew a full house. “The reception we received confirmed the need to reach out to communities with creative and educational programs such as Yellow Belly Ponderosa that convey scientific concepts and a lifelong connection to the natural world through artistic mediums,” said Anne Mottek Lucas, member of the Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership board of directors and



the producer of Yellow Belly Ponderosa. “As wildfires burn out of control in the West, and forest restoration projects are being planned to mitigate risks to our communities and natural resources, it is critical that we have community awareness, knowledge and support,” Mottek Lucas added. The performance itself was written, developed, produced and performed by students of a local charter middle and high school, Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy (FALA). Preparing for the production involved the hard work and long hours of FALA students in various courses including Advanced Creative Writing, Technical Theatre and Intro to Theatre. “When we put faith and trust into our youth, they will deliver,” said Mike Levin, a FALA educator and the director of Yellow Belly Ponderosa. “I have been at FALA 16 years, and the work they were willing to put into this project was awesome. Writing, creating the costumes and puppets, and directing this production were among the most inspirational times I’ve had as an educator.”

Yellow Belly Ponderosa began in direct response to the devastation of the Schultz Fire, which burned more than 15,000 acres of the Coconino National Forest near Flagstaff in June 2010. Following the fire, heavy rains resulted in numerous debris flows, significant erosion, and substantial flooding of the residential areas below. During its first year, Yellow Belly Ponderosa performances were staged at elementary schools in Flagstaff. “After the first year of production and the incredible feedback it received, I realized how important it is to educate our youth about how the health of the forest is directly connected to the well-being of our communities,” Mottek Lucas said. With the additional funding provided through Kaibab National Forest, Yellow Belly Ponderosa was able to expand to more far-reaching communities in northern Arizona, bringing the tale of Fox and Raven’s quest for balance in the forest to thousands of students and their family members and teachers. “We need to instill the importance of traditional ecological knowledge, science and forest restoration,” Levin said. “One can only hope that the people who saw Yellow Belly Ponderosa will take that message and run with it.”

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Multiple use means we all get a chance to use the forest for a variety of activities, both economic and recreational, while also ensuring that the land remains healthy and viable for the use and enjoyment of future generations. As employees of the forest, we are challenged but privileged to help manage this special place with the involvement and consideration of our many publics.

Liz Lane, Archaeologist
Williams/Tusayan Ranger Districts

“... the resources of these lands are wanted by a large number of diverse users who see them as critical to meeting their future needs.” **R. Max Peterson**
11th Chief of the Forest Service, 1979-1987



www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab

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